

CLAIM LISTING:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Amended) A method of producing polyisocyanates of the diphenylmethane series comprising:

- a) reacting aniline and formaldehyde in the presence of HCl to provide a product mixture containing polyamines of the diphenylmethane series, HCl, aniline and water;
- b) removing excess aniline and water by distillation to provide a product mixture comprising polyamines of the diphenylmethane series, HCl, no more than 10 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 5 wt.% water based on the polyamines; and
- c) phosgenating the product mixture ~~in~~ from (b) which comprises polyamines of the diphenylmethane series, HCl, no more than 10 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 5 wt.% water based on the polyamines;

wherein the acidic HCl catalyst is not neutralized.

Claim 2 (Original)The method according to Claim 1, wherein the distillation is performed in the presence of an entrainer.

Claim 3 (Original)The method according to Claim 1, wherein the distillation is performed by a method comprising removing aniline by distillation in the presence of water as entrainer; and removing water by distillation.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended)The method according to Claim 1, wherein, the product mixture in (b) comprises no more than 2 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 1 wt.% water ~~with~~-based on the polyamines.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)The method according to Claim 2, wherein, the product mixture in (b) comprises no more than 2 wt.% aniline based on the

polyamines, and no more than 1 wt.% water ~~with~~-based on the polyamines.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended)The method according to Claim 3, wherein, the product mixture in (b) comprises no more than 2 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 1 wt.% water ~~with~~-based on the polyamines.

Claim 7(Original)The method according to Claim 1, wherein the product mixture in (b) comprises no more than 0.2 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 0.1 wt.% water based on the polyamines.

Claim 8 (Original)The method according to Claim 2, wherein the product mixture in (b) comprises no more than 0.2 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 0.1 wt.% water based on the polyamines.

Claim 9 (Original)The method according to Claim 3, wherein the product mixture in (b) comprises no more than 0.2 wt.% aniline based on the polyamines, and no more than 0.1 wt.% water based on the polyamines.